<u>**AMENDMENTS**</u>

<u>In the Claims</u>

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-25 (Cancelled)

26.   (Previously Presented) A method for limiting disclosure of a first description of a project for at least one of research and development, the method comprising:

accessing aggregated first data describing a set of suppliers and aggregated second data describing the project to identify a first subset of the set of suppliers, each supplier of the first subset having a quantitative extent of correspondence between the respective aggregated first data and the aggregated second data; wherein:

(1) determining the respective quantitative extent of correspondence and identifying the respective supplier to the first subset are performed by a stored program computer;

(2) aggregated first data describing the plurality of suppliers comprises for each supplier:

(a) indicators of subject matter, wherein the subject matter is known to the supplier; and

(b) quantitative indicators of supplier qualities including at least one of quantity of patents held, magnitude or quantity of grants received, and magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded;

(3) aggregated second data describing the project comprises:

(a) indicators of particular subject matter including at least one of particular subject matter to be invented, particular subject matter to be reduced to practice and particular subject matter for a commercial product; and

(b) quantitative indicators of particular supplier qualities including at least one of desire minimum quantity of patents held, particular minimum magnitude or quantity of grants received, and particular minimum magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded; and

reporting the first subset of suppliers for a first restricted distribution of the first description of the project for a buyer seeking a supplier having a desired capacity for at least one

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of inventing, reducing to practice, or developing the commercial product, the first description comprising the indicators of particular subject matter.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising:

receiving a plurality of proposals, each respective proposal from a member of the first subset;

accessing the aggregated first data to identify a second subset of suppliers, each member of the second subject having indicators of particular subject matter known to the member corresponding to the indicators of particular subject matter and

providing a multiplicity of the plurality of proposals to a member of the second subset for identifying a supplier of the first subset to be eliminated from a second restricted distribution of a second description of the project.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising aggregating the first aggregated data wherein aggregating comprises:

searching an information network to identify search results; and

indexing the identified search results to provide keyword access.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28 wherein:

aggregating further comprises storing a record according to at least a portion of a message received from the information network; and

indexing comprises analyzing the record.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising conducting the first restricted distribution in accordance with the report.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the report is ordered in accordance with the quantitative extent of correspondence.

32.   (Previously Presented) A system for limiting disclosure of a first description of a project for at least one of research and development, the system comprising:

means for accessing aggregated first data describing a set of suppliers, wherein the aggregated first data describing the plurality of suppliers comprises for each supplier:

(1) indicators of subject matter, wherein the subject matter is known to the supplier; and

(2) quantitative indicators of supplier qualities including at least one of quantity of patents held, magnitude or quantity of grants received, and magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded;

means for accessing aggregated second data describing the project to identify a first subset of the set of suppliers each supplier of the first subset having a quantitative extent of correspondence between the respective aggregated first data and the aggregated second data, wherein the aggregated second data describing the project comprises:

(1) indicators of particular subject matter including at least one of particular subject matter to be invented, particular subject matter to be reduced to practice and particular subject matter for a commercial product; and

(2) quantitative indicators of particular supplier qualities including at least one of desire minimum quantity of patents held, particular minimum magnitude or quantity of grants received, and particular minimum magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded; and

means for determining the respective quantitative extent of correspondence and identifying the respective supplier to the first subset are performed by a stored program computer; and

means for reporting the first subset of suppliers for a first restricted distribution of the first description of the project for a buyer seeking a supplier having a desired capacity for at least one of inventing, reducing to practice, or developing the commercial product, the first description comprising the indicators of particular subject matter.

33.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 further comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of proposals, each respective proposal from a member of the first subset;

means for accessing the aggregated first data to identify a second subset of suppliers, each member of the second subject having indicators of particular subject matter known to the member corresponding to the indicators of particular subject matter and

means for providing a multiplicity of the plurality of proposals to a member of the second subset for identifying a supplier of the first subset to be eliminated from a second restricted distribution of a second description of the project.

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34.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 further comprising means for aggregating the first aggregated data wherein aggregating comprises:

   means for searching an information network to identify search results; and

   means for indexing the identified search results to provide keyword access.

35.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein:

   the means for aggregating further comprises means for storing a record according to at least a portion of a message received from the information network; and

   the means for indexing comprises means for analyzing the record.

36.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, further comprising means for conducting the first restricted distribution in accordance with the report.

37.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32 wherein the report is ordered in accordance with the quantitative extent of correspondence.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the aggregated second data describing the project is generated using the assistance of a broker.

39.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the broker receives one or more objectives of the project from the buyer via a network and utilizes the received objectives to generate at least a portion of the aggregated second data.

40.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein a broker reviews at least one of the received proposals and provides feedback to the supplier associated with the reviewed proposal, and wherein the supplier modifies the reviewed proposal in response to the feedback.